

Inyo Backcountry Trails Crew

June Monthly Report

Agnes Vianzon, Crew Supervisor

Written by: Amber Springer, Chelsea Taylor, Megan Smedley, Sam Shakleford, Josh Huntley, and Ace Cassidy.

Overview:

Greetings from San Jacinto!

Two months in now, and the weeks go faster as we fall into our routine. Despite some road bumps, morale is high and the crew is proud of the excellent work we have done here. The sponsors and staff frequently express how impressed they are with the work.

This month marked the departure of Jess and Peter. We miss you both and glad to hear you are well. Furthermore, this is the end of our time in San Jacinto and there is mixed feelings in all of us. We say goodbye to the fond memories of San Jacinto and are filled with excitement for the Inyo, which we have heard is insanely beautiful.

Looking back on some of our adventures in the San Jac, there is a sense of joy and accomplishments in those endeavors that bolsters us against our future challenges. From the lookout and sunset at Tahquitz, the aptly named Skink Cabbage Meadow, the grueling but rewarding Fuller Ridge, out field trip to shining Silverton Lake (where Chris introduced his girlfriend Marissa to the crew) and San Jacinto Peak's little sister, Miller Peak.

Our new C 1, Agnes (Big-A) Vianzon, has been nothing but competent and understanding, preparing us for the future with JHAs, bear safety, keeping on top of birthdays (Jake, July 27th), generally being awesome, and treating us like family right off the bat.

Chelsea Vidaurri (Inyo '11), our cook, plus the party committee kicked off a stellar summer solstice party with much silly dancing, limbo, drums, and a spiritual preparation for our journey into the Inyo.

Oh! And who can forget our English Tram operator, Patrick, who blasted dance music at 8:00 am while we danced our butts off hundreds of feet in the air in our little steel and glass cable car.

Curriculum:

The crew participated in a variety of classes this month. A strong focus was placed on community-building and maintaining a healthy, safe, and fun environment for each member. Practicing active listening, group brainstorming, and 10-minute crew member interviews helped open the flock for discussion on how to carry out a successful season and continue to improve the community.

Our first crewmember-led classes and we learned how to make and use lightweight stoves out of cat cans by Jake Veilleux. Also, with the help of Lance Hostetler, one of our sponsors, we added a splash of color to our lives and our wardrobe as we learned the skills of tie dye and batik. The crew got some first-hand experience with tree climbing. It was an exciting challenge for everyone. We also continued our weekly reading of *The Last Season*. Thank you to everyone involved with our classes and putting in the time and effort into making them both entertaining and educational. Can't wait to learn more in July! WE APPRECIATE YOU!

For the month of June, the Inyo, San Jacinto crew owe many thanks to a lot of special individuals. Much gratitude is owed to Lance, Efrain, Steve, and Kyle for all of their help on The Hidden Divide Trail. Without all of you, the trails gorgeous completion would not have been possible. Lance and Efrain were both very patient with the whole crew during the entire process. It was an amazing opportunity for the crew to learn quality rock work. The special mentoring skills that were brought to the table enabled the crew to produce a majestic, long-lasting trail that will beautifully protect the blue curls. You guys rock! Love the Wolfpack.

Lori Turner and James Silvia, thank you for really taking the time to go above and beyond the call of duty. The both of you were a strong influence on our season. We couldn't have done it without you. You both made the start of our backcountry season possible, and we are so thankful for having the opportunity to learn the rock work in San Jacinto and it is all thanks to you and the State Parks.

Of course we can never forget John and Annette Nickontro for taking the time to coordinate all the different projects for all of the State Parks. We were blessed to be part of one of these projects, and State Parks wouldn't be the same without all of your hard work and dedication.

Also a big shout out to all of the special visitors that came to our camp to teach us new important skills that will greatly help our crew in the backcountry. George, Bart, Ken, and Carl, thank you very much.

Possibly one of our favorite memoires is due to Patrick, the disco tram man. It was an unforgettable ride and we still talk about the experience till this day. It will be a memory that will forever be in our hearts.

Dana Brazelton, thank you for your support and making our San Jacinto project possible. Thank you so much for the treats, the card games, and the smiles. The little things mean the most.

Our deepest thanks go out to our cook Chelsea who without a doubt is our fuel to ignite our inner drive.

Karlson, your enthusiasm and energy keeps us strong. You are the man.

Agnes, we cannot thank you enough for your sacrificing everything to ensure we have a successful season. Not only have you taken complete responsibility for our wellbeing, but you have done it with open arms and an open heart. We promise to give it our all and give back everything you have given to us. Thank you mama wolf, Thank you!

Corpsmember Words of Wisdom:

Do not doubt. Never doubt. For doubting, more than anything else, would be the likeliest cause of your downfall. Take each step, one by one, as it comes to you down the path. Know that you are capable of each step, have accomplished each step. Know that you will face and conquer also the next step. Though the path may seem long at times it is not important; pay it no mind. What is important is the present moment, the present step. And it accomplished then the next present step, and the present step after. Then, one step at a time, you will find the path not so long nor so arduous as it once seemed when viewed in its entirety, and your goal not so very far away.

But that is for later, that is for retrospect. Now in present sect it is only this moment that matters. Live this moment, conquer this moment, complete this moment, savor this moment. Be this moment, for it will come to you only once, and pass you by with fleeting steps. Revel in every moment you are given, for each one of them is yours. This moment is your entire life, and your entire life springs forth from this moment—Amber Springer

Love is the strongest foundation for a successful community. I look around at the Wolfpack and all I see is love. Love for our work, love for each other, and a passionate and unhindered love for life. This is what makes us great, what makes us so special. It is wonderful to see. It is beautiful to be part of us. Thank you, Wolfpack, for your love—Matt Scully